as earnest money at the time of land allotment earlier; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that four Cooperative Group Housing Societies had represented that their money which was lying with the Parishad Bank may be adjusted against the demanded cost of land. These Societies are (i) Dabas CGHS (ii) Ashoka Enclave (iii) Priyadarshini CGHS and (iv) Veg Sanchar Vihar. Their requests have been rejected because under the rules, the allotment can be made only to those Societies who deposit the demanded amount equivalent to 35% of the cost of land within the stipulated period.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, as there is no such provision in the Rules.

Additional Assistance by HUDCO

2741. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for sanction of additional assistance of Rs.65 crores from HUDCO for implementation of housing programme under EWS was sent by Andhra Pradesh Government during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HUDCO has agreed to provide additional funds, and

(d) if so, the time by which the funds are likely to be released by HUDCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government made a request to HUDCO in October, 1995 to provide increased loan assistance of Rs.65 crores during 1995-96 to meet their requirement of construction of 2,05,008 houses for weaker section in rural areas.

(c) HUDCO could not meet the requirement of State Government fully because State-wise loan allocation had already been decided by that time according to area/population, demand and performance of State Agencies. On that basis HUDCO had allocated Rs.12.35 crores under EWS (Rural) during 1995-96. However, HUDCO had agreed to permit the State Government to utilise Rs.19.00 crores earmarked for LIG, for the EWS (Rural) schemes, provided the State Government bears the burden of difference of interest rate between EWS and LIG. Thus a total amount of Rs.31.35 crores was made available to the State Government by HUDCO for EWS (Rural) schemes.

(d) The entire amount of Rs.31.35 crores has been released by HUDCO by the end of March, 1996.

[Translation]

Sanctioned Posts of OBC

2742. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the grade-wise number of sanctioned posts in the different Ministries/departments/other sub-ordinate offices of the Government of India and the number of posts out of these held by the OBC officers recruited through open examinations and appointed under general category;

(b) the number of OBC officers/employees appointed till 31st July, 1996 after the implementation of the new reservation policy;

(c) whether the complaints have been received regarding non-filling up of these posts reserved for OBC candidates; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill-up the posts reserved for the OBC candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The information is not being centrally maintained.

(b) Keeping in view the high priority accorded by the Government to successful implementation of the decision regarding 27% reservation for members of the other backward classes, it was stressed on the Ministries/Departments that date relating to their recruitment in a particular year should be available soon after the year is over. As per information received from 24 of the 65 Ministries/Departments, 7160 candidates belonging to other backward classes have been appointed upto 31.12.95.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of this Department.

(d) Does not arise.

Rural Artisans

2743. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes formulated/implemented for the upliftment of rural artisans so far;

(b) the details in respect of each scheme, State-wise;

(c) the additional facilities proposed to be provided to them during 1997 and 1998, and

(d) the names of items manufactured under the said schemes during the last two years and the countries to which these items were exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) This Ministry is implementing a scheme of supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans. Under the Scheme, Rural Artisans living below the poverty line are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/market-ability of their products and reduce their drudgery.

(b) The scheme of supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans is a Sub-Scheme of IRDP. Intially, it was launched in selected districts. Later, from 1995-96 it was extended to entire country except UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh. Under this scheme artisans from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers are provided improved toolkits. The average cost of toolkit is Rs.2000 and the unit cost is to be fixed by DRDA concerned. The artisans are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the toolkits as their contribution with the balance 90% being met as subsidy from the Government of India. The use of power driven toolkits upto the cost of Rs.4500/- has also been permitted under the scheme. Beyond this, it is to be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level the DRDA is the nodal agency for implementation. The prototypes of improved tools in pottery, carpentry, black smithy, leather work, wood craft, metal craft and lacquerware have been developed by the National Small Industries Corporation, Regional Design and Technical Development Centre under the Development Commissioner, Handicraft and other organisations. If the State Governments feel that better alternatives to improved tools suitable to local conditions are available in their States, they are free to choose those models, subject to the approval by the State Level/District Level/Tasks Force/Technical Committee set up for the purpose.

(c) The following additional facilities are proposed to be provided to the rural artisans during the year 1997-98:

(1) Institutional arrangements for establishing marketing linkage for ensuring higher income to rural artisans.

(2) Supply of literature with graphics and illustrations to the illiterate rural artisans for proper use of Improved Tool-Kits.

(3) Discussion with rural artisans after supply of toolkits about its utility and suitability.

(d) The rural artisans whom the toolkits are supplied are free to manufacture any items of their choice and they are free to sell their products anywhere they like. Information regarding export of such items to other countries is not available.

[English]

Delhi Urban Arts Commission

2744. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether term of the present Delhi Urban Arts Commission is scheduled to end in November, 1996, and

(b) whether any exercise has been done to reconstitute it in such a way as to ensure fulfilment of the objects of the Urban Arts Commission Act, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The term of the earlier Commission had ended on 25.10.1996. The Delhi Urban Art Commission has been reconstituted for a term of three years with effect from 4.12.1996.

Backlog in Reserved Posts

2745. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Executives from E2 i.e. Engineer to E 8 level i.e. General Manager in NHPC Limited;

(b) the number percentage, and backlog of SC/ST Executives in each of these categories;

(c) whether there exist any prevailing instruction/policy for filling up the backlog in each category of Executives;

(d) if so, whether NHPC could fill up the backlog in each category;

(e) whether any reservation in promotion upto E8 level is being followed in NHPC;

(f) if so, the number of each of the categories have been promoted since May, 1995; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The total number of Executives from E-2 i.e. Engineer/Officer to E-8 i.e. General Manager in NHPC Ltd., as on 31.10.1996 is 1058.